

WASHINGTON TIMES  
24 April 1985

# KGB chief, 2 others elevated to Politburo

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, moving with unprecedented speed to consolidate his power, has elevated the head of the KGB and two other key party officials to the ruling Politburo and appointed the defense minister to candidate, or non-voting, membership.

The move was characterized by one highly placed U.S. intelligence official as "coming with extraordinary swiftness. There has never been a Politburo shakeup this fast... on the heels of the naming of a new party leader."

Meanwhile, the White House said there has been no decision on whether President Reagan would use the fall opening of the U.N. General Assembly as an opportunity for a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said, "We welcome the reaffirmation of the Soviet Union's readiness to improve relations with the U.S. for mutual benefit without

attempts to infringe upon the other's legitimate rights and interests."

Mr. Speakes, referring to a Tass excerpt of a Gorbachev speech to the plenum, said, "The reported remarks about U.S.-Soviet relations appear to us to be an all-too-familiar recapitulation of Soviet distortions."

"We reject Mr. Gorbachev's assertion that the U.S. bears responsibility for current East-West tensions, his comments that the U.S. seeks military superiority and his allegations that the U.S. negotiators are not seeking agreements at the nuclear and space arms talks."

Tass, the official news agency, said that Viktor M. Chebrikov, a Ukrainian who has been head of the KGB since 1982, was raised from a candidate to full voting member of the Politburo. He will turn 62 on April 27.

Additionally, Yegor Ligachev, 64, and Nikolai Ryzhkov, 55, were named directly to the Politburo from the party Secretariat. The new Soviet

leader has had a close working relationship with these two men, who skipped the normal step of being named candidate members.

Tass also reported that Marshal Sergei N. Sokolov, 73, a career military officer who was named defense minister last December after the death of Marshal Dmitri F. Ustinov, member of the ruling body.

The new appointments bring the Politburo to 13 full members and six candidate members. Its numbers had shrunk to 10 full and six candidate members before Mr. Gorbachev took power March 11.

The Politburo has numbered as many as 15 full and nine other members.

The 54-year-old Mr. Gorbachev "apparently believes that sufficient time has elapsed to let the party's bureaucracy get used to the idea that big changes are in store, and to let them absorb the differences in

leadership technique between himself and [former leader Konstantin Chernenko]," said the intelligence source, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

"If these moves tell us anything," he said, "it is that Mikhail Gorbachev is indeed a man in a hurry — and he's in a hurry to put his proteges where they can help him most, in the Politburo."

The announcement came yesterday in the closing session of the first regular meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee since Mr. Gorbachev succeeded Mr. Chernenko on March 11.

"The tipoff that [Mr. Gorbachev] is consolidating his power is the appointments of Ryzhkov and Ligachev," said the American official. The Soviet leader "reached down into the party Secretariat for these two men, both of whom he has worked with extensively in the past."

"He knows Ligachev and Ryzhkov well, has worked closely with them, and undoubtedly knows they support his overall view of where the Soviet

economy ought to be going in the next decade or so and, equally important, how it will get there."

During Mr. Chernenko's tenure as Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev was one of three voting members of the Politburo who also sat on the Secretariat, the powerful organization that oversees the day-to-day affairs of the Soviet Union.

The Ligachev and Ryzhkov appointments mark the first time in 12 years that members of the ruling body have been drawn from outside the Politburo. In 1973, Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko was installed in the Politburo by then-party general secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev.

Mr. Chebrikov, who is a colonel general, was named director of the KGB in December 1982. His was one of the late Yuri V. Andropov's first major personnel changes after he took control of the party in that year. Mr. Chebrikov had worked under Mr. Andropov during the 15 years Mr. Andropov headed the KGB.

Mr. Ryzhkov's background is in

the administration of heavy industry. In the 1970s, he was first deputy minister of heavy and transport machine building and from 1979 to 1984 a first deputy chairman of Gosplan, the state planning committee. He became a full member of the Central Committee in 1981.

Mr. Ligachev, whose star also rose during Mr. Andropov's 15 months in office, became head of the Central Committee's organizational party work department in April 1983. The department oversees party personnel matters.

Most important, however, Mr. Ligachev worked with Mr. Gorbachev in supervising local party and Supreme Soviet elections in 1983 and 1984.

Tass also announced that 56-year-old Viktor P. Nikonov, agricultural minister for the Russian Federated Soviet Socialist Republic, the largest and most important of the nation's 15 constituent republics, was named to the Secretariat.

Jeremiah O'Leary contributed to this report.